The Alexandria Gazette: America's Oldest Daily Newspaper

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The Alexandria Gazette holds a unique and prestigious place in American history. Tracing its roots back to 1784, it is widely recognized as one of the oldest continuously published daily newspapers in the United States. Its pages have literally drafted the first drafts of American history, from the founding of the Republic through the Civil War and into the modern era.

Operating just across the Potomac River from the nation's capital, the Gazette offered a vital local perspective on national events. It survived fires, wars, and economic depressions, always emerging to deliver the news to the citizens of Virginia. Its archives are a treasure trove for historians, offering a day-by-day account of the American experiment.

The transition to the digital age challenged the Gazette, as it did all print media, leading to changes in ownership and publication frequency. However, the legacy of the Gazette is immortalized in its historical record.

In authoring *The Alexandria Gazette: A Living Archive*, I sought to capture the resilience of this historic publication. The Gazette is more than a newspaper; it is a monument to the enduring necessity of the free press.

Robert Shumake is a historian, best-selling author, and the founder of Buddha University and Orisha University. He is the author of [The Alexandria Gazette: A Living Archive](https://play.google.com/store/books), available for free on Google Books. For more of his academic and historical work, visit robertshumake.co.

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